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THE

Good Old Test

REVIV'D and RECOMMENDED

To all Sincere

CHRISTIANS.

SINCE *God* and *Cæsar* has given us Peace, let us enjoy it. Why should any be any longer Miserable, when a Universal Blessing bids all be Happy? We have had enough of Persecution, enough of Sequestring, of Seizing, of Confinements, of Prisons; enough of starving, of undoing Families, of Torturing Consciences and making Orphans and Widows for God's sake. These have been the Evils We have hitherto groan'd under, and which have for many years deform'd Our *Goshen* with an *Egyptian Servitude*. But now, Heaven be Bless'd, and Thanks to Our Good Sovereign, we are call'd from this Slavery; these Heavy Burdens are taken off our Shoulders; We need no

 longer

longer dread the *Black Writ*, or *a Summons*; but may every one ſit under his own Fig-tree, and eat of the Fruit of his own Vine. Away therefore now with all *Animoſities* and *Hatreds*, let *Jealouſies* and *Plotting* be baniſh'd from amongſt us, let *Factions* and *Riots* be buried for ever; and let an Undiſtinguiſhing Charity unite us equally to every Neighbour. Let us have no other *Teſt*, but of *Loyalty* and *Love*. Let every one Serve God to the beſt of his Knowledge: And tho' we cannot *joyn* in *Worſhip*, yet let no *Hatred* divide us. Let *Chriſtians* dread nothing, but from *Infidels* or *Turks*: If *theſe* are taught to hate us, to Revile and Rail againſt us; if theſe have their *Chains*, their *Priſons* and their *Slavery*; Let theſe *Turkiſh Entertainments* remain with the *Turks*: For why ſhould *Chriſtians* prepare them for one another? Let us all joyn our Hearts and our Hands, to purge the Nation of theſe *Barbary-Faſhions*: And let *Railing* and *Reproching* be no longer any part of Our Religion; Theſe may ſound well enough in a *Moſch*; But make no good Muſick within *Chriſtian* Walls: Let the *Teſt* of a *Chriſtian* be no other than what was appointed by *Chriſt*. He Commanded us to *Love one another*: Let us all take This *Teſt*, This *Chriſtian Teſt*. In this let us ſtrive to out do one another: And let this be the chief Argument, by which we deſire to prove, that *We are Chriſt's Diſciples*. Oh! what a Happy Nation would This *Charity* make us? How ſoon would *Peace* and *Plenty* begin to overflow? How would our Neighbours abroad both Love and admire us? How would our Enemies ſwell both with Envy and Dread? And why now

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ſhall we not be thus Happy, when we may? If we hinder it not our ſelves, our *Guardian-Caſar* will not permit it to be in the Power of others to do it. Let us apply therefore our Minds to the Promoting this Union: Let us all endeavour to mend every one One. Let us all ſearch our *Inclinations*, and examine our *Hearts*; if any one diſcovers there any *Sowerneſs* or *Averſion* to *Peace*; if any *Melancholy* ariſing at this *General Joy*: Let him purge and diſcharge it: Such Symptoms betray a corruption of Humours, and that the *Conſtitution* is not ſo *Chriſtian* as it ſhou'd be. If any *Grieve*, becauſe *This Peace* has leſſen'd their *Authority*, or ſhortned their *Power*; let them examine, what this *Power* and *Authority* was: If 'twas a Power of *Perſecuting*, a Power of *Oppreſſing*, a Power of *Afflicting* their *Neighbour*; let them Remember, that to a Good Man ſuch a *loſs* is deſirable, and that *Tyranny* is no proper Badge of a *Chriſtian*. If any find an Inclination to be *Railing* againſt their *Neighbours*; if they can never think themſelves well, but when they are Trampling upon their Fellow-Chriſtians; if they recommend their *Perſwaſion*, by making others *Ridiculous*; this may paſs for a *Zeal*, but ſcarce according to *Knowledge*; This might do well enough, were it the Intereſt of Chriſtians to deſtroy Chriſtianity; were there any vertue in *Paſſion*, in *Animoſity*, and *Malice*; or were it our *Duty* to *Hate*, inſtead of *Love* one another. But as our Goſpel ſtands, *Meekneſs*, *Charity*, *Compaſſion* and *Peace*, are the better Vertues, and more Subſtantial Proofs of a good Religion. Since our Goſpel therefore is a Goſpel of *Peace*, let us improve this

this vertue amongst us: And for all Snarling, Quarrelling, Unneighbourly Tempers, let them be gone into *Cadmus's* Field, where Fighting is all the Fashion; where no Man gets up, but tis to knock down his Neighbour, where Ruin is all the Design. This is the proper place of such embittering Spirits; here let them fire all their *Mouth-Granados*, and beat up their Points of War upon *Pulpit-Drums*: But for us, let us live in Peace, we desire no such *Champain Divinity*. Our Gospel instructs us to *Serve God*, to *Give Cæsar his Due*, and to *Love our Neighbour*; let this be our Profession and our Practice. Let those be admit'd, who encourage these Vertues and Teach them. But for others who either openly, or by Sly Insinuations promote the contrary, let them be esteem'd neither for Good Christians or Loyal Subjects.

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